REMARKS

The Applicant has reviewed the Examiner's Office Action dated October 7, 2003. The Applicant has amended the specification and submitted a substitute specification. The Applicant has amended the drawings. The Applicant has amended claims 1 - 14, cancelled claims 15 - 20, and written new claims 21 - 24. The Applicant hereby provides the following remarks concerning the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and for double patenting.

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 1, 8, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claim 1, 8, 15 of copending application No. 09085246. The Examiner has made the double patenting rejection provisional since the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 are provisionally rejected by the Examiner under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 8, 15 of copending application No. 09085246. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, the Examiner believes they are not patentably distinct from each other because they are similar subject matter.

The Applicant has amended claims 1 and 8 to properly claim the invention for a virtual line replaceable unit in the present application. The copending application No. 09085246 is for a message processor. With this amendment the Applicant believes that the double patenting rejection is overcome. The Applicant has cancelled claims 15-20.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2-5, 8-12, 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckle et al. (US Patent 6,049,819) in view of Ely et al. (US Pat No. 6,002,758).

As to claim 1, the Examiner asserts that Buckle teaches a dispatch object (set of commands, col 14, ln 1-50/col 22, ln 5-20/ the event in IDL, col 15, ln 12-31), a framework (an infrastructure framework/CORBA, col 3, ln 19-61/col. 13, ln 1-67/col 15, ln 12-31), network (mobile network, col 1, ln 10-30), addressable unit objects (a first agent 1401 at location L1, col 20, ln 20, ln 40-67), virtual line (the agent enabling layer 503/virtue of address/agent template, col 13, ln 10-67), one or more physical devices (physical resources cooperating to provide services such as conventional

voice telephone, facsimile and data transaction service, col 1, ln 10-30/col 3, ln 19-55, col 20, ln 40-67), message (ACL messaging, col 13, ln 1-67/col 14, ln 1-50, col 15, ln 9-31).

The Examiner asserts that Buckle does not explicit teach communication network message. The Examiner then states that Ely teaches process network messages (col 2, in 35-63/cool 4, in 5-49).

The Examiner believes that it would have been obvious to apply the teaching of Ely to Buckle in order to provide a message processing that can be rapidly designed, developed, tested, deployed, maintained and to provide a flexible message processing system and method which can be efficiently and rapidly expanded to support new applications and interfaces.

The Applicant's invention is for a passenger entertainment system having a plurality of physical devices or line replaceable units that provide services and control the system. Control and processing in the system is accomplished with a computer. The computer may be a primary access terminal for operator control or a cabin file server for providing passenger access for passenger entertainment system services. The primary access terminal and the cabin file server have similar functions such as a message processor for processing messages from line replaceable units, network addressable units for directing messages, and a transaction dispatcher. The present application is directed towards the computer with network addressable units and virtual line replaceable units therein.

The Applicant has amended claim 1 to properly claim the invention and added a further limitation of creating a virtual line replaceable unit in a network addressable unit within the computer for one or more physical devices. Neither reference cited by the Examiner discloses a computer with such a network addressable unit either individually or in combination. The Applicant believes that amended claim 1 is allowable over Buckle in view of Ely.

As to claim 2, the Examiner asserts that Buckle teaches message (ACL messaging, col 13, ln 1-67/col 14, ln 1-50, col 15, ln 9-31), one or more physical devices (physical resources cooperating to provide services such as conventional

voice telephone, facsimile and data transaction service, col 1, In 10-30/col 3, In 19-55, col 20, In 40-67), a queue (message are queued, col 15, In 25-31).

Claim 2 depends on claim 1 now believed allowable thereby making claim 2 allowable.

As to the method of claim 3, the Examiner references the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 3 depends on claim 1 now believed allowable thereby making claim 3 allowable.

As to claim 4, the Examiner asserts that Buckle does not teach logic to convert message from a first format to a second format. However, the Examiner states that Ely teaches first input message for processing the first format messages into a second format input message (col 2, In 35-67).

The Examiner believes that it would have been obvious to apply the teaching of Ely to Buckle in order to change the format of input message to a format for delivery to the processor.

Claim 4 depends on claim 1 now believed allowable thereby making claim 4 allowable.

As to claim 5, the Examiner asserts that Buckle teaches the status of related devices (entity packaging a set of data, col 5, In 50-67).

Claim 5 depends on claim 1 now believed allowable thereby making claim 5 allowable.

As to a method of claim 8, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 1. Further the Examiner believes that Buckle teaches a system server (server agent, col 5, In 1-10/a server computer equipment, col 14. In 1-15).

As discussed in the remarks for claim 1 Buckle does not teach a computer or system server as taught by the Applicant that contains network addressable units that have virtual line replaceable units created therein for physical devices in the system. Claim 8 is amended to properly claim the invention and is now believed allowable.

As to the system of claim 9, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 9 depends on claim 8 now believed allowable thereby making claim 9 allowable.

As to the system of claim 10, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 3.

Claim 10 depends on claim 8 now believed allowable thereby making claim 10 allowable.

As to the system of claim 11, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 4.

Claim 11 depends on claim 8 now believed allowable thereby making claim 11 allowable.

As to the system of claim 12, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 5.

Claim 12 depends on claim 8 now believed allowable thereby making claim 12 allowable.

As to the computer program of claim 15, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 1.

The Applicant has cancelled claim 15.

As to the computer program of claim 16, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 2.

The Applicant has cancelled claim 16.

As to the computer program of claim 17, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 3.

The Applicant has cancelled claim 17.

As to the computer program of claim 18, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 4.

The Applicant has cancelled claim 18.

As to the computer program of claim 19, the Examiner refers to the rejection of claim 5.
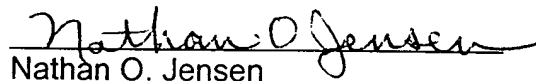
The Applicant has cancelled claim 19.

The Examiner has rejected claims 6, 13, 14, 20 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckle et al (US Patent 6,049,819) in view of Ely et al (US Patent 6,002,758) and further in view of Prugh et al. (4,787,027).

As to claim 6, the Examiner asserts that Buckle does not teach the network address unit. However, the Examiner states that Prugh teaches device address (Fig. 6).

CONCLUSION

The specification has been corrected and repeated subject matter and subject matter not needed has been cancelled. A substitute specification is being submitted. The drawings have been corrected to correspond to the amended specification and drawings corresponding to the cancelled subject matter have been cancelled. Rejected claims 1 - 14 have been amended, claims 15 - 20 have been cancelled and new claims 21 - 24 have been written. With this amendment the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and for double patenting are believed to be overcome. The application should be in a condition for allowance. In light of the forgoing, consideration of the new claims is hereby requested, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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